

# Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

## Straight Arrow Ministries

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[Straitarrow.net](http://Straitarrow.net)

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### Featured Product

#### Ken's Book, "The Journey"

For many people, a journey into the Bible is like flying into the Bermuda Triangle, tackling an unsolved mystery, or hopelessly laboring over a puzzling paradox. They throw up their hands in futility, believing the massive book is too big, too old, and too complex to be understood. But the reality is far less scary.

The Bible is not just the most published book of all time; it is the clearest path to understanding the riddle of life. I remember the days before smartphones when I'd be driving around a city trying to find a person to ask directions, with my hope of getting to the desired location resting on the perceptions of a stranger. I'm so grateful for GPS Global Positioning Systems. I'd probably be lost every day of my life without its guidance. But with this simple tool, I now drive with confidence and even enjoy the ride.

I believe *The Journey* by Ken Birks is your GPS for the Bible. The problem is solved. The riddle is deciphered. Like a trusted guide, Ken makes complex concepts simple and masterfully unpacks the Bible's greatest mysteries. He provides a sure foundation upon which to build a lifetime of insight.

Ken has been a trusted friend and leader in our church for nearly two decades, and beyond our relationship, he has been a pastor and gifted Bible teacher for over 30 years. When I need a scripture explained, I often ask Ken for his wisdom; frankly, I have never been disappointed.

If I were building a house, I'd hire a master builder. If I didn't understand the Bible and wanted a solid foundation for my Christian life, I'd study this book, *The Journey*, and let a master teacher like Ken Birks guide me down the path of life.

— By Franis Anfuso —  
KLOVE Personality

### Featured Message

#### Building a Sure Foundation

The primary focus of this month's newsletter is to emphasize the importance of building a strong biblical foundation through faith in Jesus Christ, which will help us, as Born-Again Christians, withstand the trials and challenges of life.

In the seventh chapter of John's gospel, Jesus teaches the "Parable of Building on the Rock." Emphasizing the importance of a strong biblical foundation, Jesus contrasts the foolish man who built his house on sand with the wise man who built his house on rock. When the storms came, the foolish man's house fell, while the wise man's house stood firm.

The preceding verses describe the wise as those who call Him Lord and follow His teachings, while the foolish say "Lord, Lord" but do not do what He commands. Jesus tells the foolish ones that He never knew them. Let us ensure that we are building a solid foundation, like the wise man who built his house on the Rock, so that we never hear the words, "I never knew you."

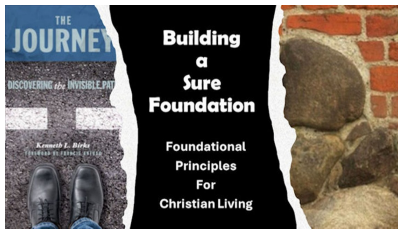
In these times of extreme sinful behavior, violence, catastrophes, wars, pestilences, earthquakes, famines, and more, it is crucial to be wise and discerning.

*Ephesians 5:15-16: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."*

We must have a strong biblical foundation to survive and overcome in these times, which Jesus described as birth pangs, a metaphor used to describe events that will intensify and increase in frequency as the end of the age approaches — *Matthew 24:8*.

*Continued on Page 2*

### *Building a Sure Foundation Continued*



The events described in Matthew 24 include a wide range of catastrophes and social phenomena: Wars and rumors of wars, pestilences (plagues), earth-

quakes, persecution and hatred of believers by nations, betrayal and hatred among people, the rise of false teachers and prophets, and increased lawlessness, leading to love growing cold.

As we approach the end of the age and the return of Christ, there will be a great falling away of many Christians because of the environment pointed out above.

*1 Timothy 4:1: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."*

All that Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24 and Paul in 1 Timothy gives us an excellent reason to walk circumspectly while building a foundation that will not only endure testing by fire but also endure throughout eternity.

We must take seriously the admonition to build a spiritual house that can withstand anything that tries to destroy our faith. We have a greater power available to us than anything the devil or the world can throw at us.

*1 John 4:4: "Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world."*

Building a solid foundation begins by surrendering to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, following Him in the same manner His early disciples did — a process that involves getting to know Him intimately. When we are too busy with our own pursuits, we miss the relationship He wants to have with us. Psalm 139 clearly illustrates this.

*Psalm 139:1-3: "O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thoughts afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways."*

The Book of Hebrews challenges us not to remain babes in the Lord, partaking only of the milk of God's Word, but to be mature by partaking of the meat of His Word as well. The Book of Hebrews then goes on to explain how we must first be partakers of the elementary principles of Christ before we can begin to build the house God wants us to build. In Hebrews 6:1-3, the writer explains this very well. After listing the elementary principles, such as repentance, faith in God, water and Holy Spirit baptisms, it says in verse three, *"And this we will do if God permits."*

**In other words, God must issue you a spiritual building permit before you can build according to His plans.** Unless we are building according to God's pattern for our lives, we will produce dead works, which are nothing more than wood, hay, and stubble, which will be burned when our faith is tested. What we build must be built on the foundation of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.  
— 1 Corinthians 3:9-15 —

In this issue of the "Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter I am focusing on the most important principle that was mentioned in Hebrews Six, which is 'Faith Towards God.' Both the poem and the Bible Study focus on getting to know God for who He truly is. When we have misconceptions of who God is, it affects every aspect of our walk with Him and the people we surround ourselves with. It causes deception in our relationship with Him and others.

**Included below is a list of Bible Study Lessons that cover the truths Hebrews Six mentions.**

May God bless you richly as you give yourself to building a spiritual foundation that will withstand all the pressures and trials that come your way as you work out your salvation in fear and trembling.

***If the foundations are destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?***

***Psalm 11:3***

**Foundational Truths  
Bible Studies Available  
from the Website**

**Hebrews 6:1-3**

**Faith Towards God  
Our Great Salvation  
Repentance  
Resurrection of Dead  
Eternal Judgement  
Water Baptism  
Holy Spirit Baptism**

**Other Foundational Truths**

Click the link above to view the Bible Study of your choice.

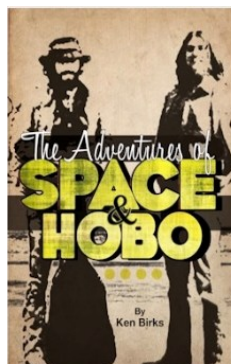
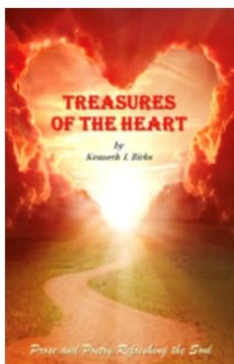


### Podcast Sermon Feature Positioned for Radical Receiving

In this message, we discover all of the wonderful promises God has given to us to be radical receivers of all that He desires to pour into our lives. God's plan is to bless us in so many ways that are even beyond our understanding. He has treasures from above He wants to impart into our spirits. In this podcast we learn how to position ourselves to receive all that He desires to pour into our lives. May you be blessed and encouraged as you watch and listen to this Video Sermon.

[Click Here to Listen](#)

### Visit Ken's Bookstore



### Intimately Acquainted with God

Intimately acquainted with His ways, He's forevermore.  
Knowing thoughts, dreams, fears, sins, He restores.  
Towards us, His thoughts are more than can be numbered.  
Brought into captivity, our thoughts remain unencumbered.

May we know God as He knows us, even in our sins.  
With His greatness beyond discovery, we seek to begin.  
Hidden treasures discovered, we search with persistence.  
Intimacy revealed within, we seek without resistance.

In seeking and discovery, misconceptions disappear.  
Teaching us, the Spirit reveals His nature, so near.  
In beauty and majesty, He reveals His ascriptions.  
In His Word, we search out His divine distinctions.

In wonder of His creation, His handiwork, we discover.  
In beauty and magnificence, His creative zeal we uncover.  
Myriads of stars, streams, mountains, and waterfalls reveal.  
In beauty and majesty, He's detected by all who kneel.

In omniscience, He knows our future and paths we take.  
A guiding light, He leads, knowing what's at stake.  
Trusting in Him, we navigate through dangers and setbacks.  
Thoughts of peace, our future fills with faith and hope.

Incomprehensible and inexhaustible in power, He succeeds.  
Nothing too difficult, omnipotence empowers to exceed.  
Performing and doing the hard things, our part is attainable.  
Not minimized in power, all things in Him are obtainable.

In all that's created, His eternal Godhead portrays.  
Without excuse, the sun, moon, and stars display.

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me!  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.  
You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.*

*Psalm 139:1-3*



## God Likes You Bible Study

Most of us have grown up with a distorted perception of who God is and how He desires to relate to us. We may view God as some mean and cruel person who wants to punish us for every wrong thing we do, or we may see Him as the benevolent God, who is primarily forgiving. Or we may perceive Him as a critical God, who wants absolute control of all things. In this study, the goal is to define who God is and how we should view Him from a true Biblical view. The truth is that how you perceive God will affect how you relate to Him. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that we have a correct Biblical view of who God is.



Click on the graphic to take the quick, simple test

In order to begin to get a glimpse into God's greatness, we must begin to see Him as He views Himself. Instead of allowing our lives to be conformed to our limited view of who we think God to be, we must humble ourselves and see Him as He has revealed Himself through Scripture and the revelation of His Spirit. His ways and thoughts are so much higher than our ways.

Once we know God to some degree of accuracy, He becomes an anchor to our souls. We are truly liberated when we break through the discouragements and confusion of our circumstances and embrace the unchanging, loving, all-wise, omnipotent King of glory.

When we begin to perceive God in the same way that He perceives us there is an agreement in the Spirit that brings a greater connection and intimacy with Him and thus causes us to seek Him more with a full heart of assurance.

*Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

The truth is, God has always liked you. But you're not alone! He likes everybody! God likes us even though we do things we know are wrong. God likes us even though He doesn't like everything we do. God the Father couldn't love us any more than He does. He doesn't love us more when we are Good; nor does He love us Less when we are Bad.

There's nothing we could ever do to make God love us more. Likewise, there's nothing we could ever do to make Him love us less. Like a good parent, God's love for us is unconditional, unwavering, and

### Bible Studies on "God Likes You"

[God's View of Us](#)

[Our View of God](#)